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**From:** Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 2/22/2019 8:44:57 PM  
**To:** Rowan, Anne [rowan.anne@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Short, Thomas [short.thomas@epa.gov]; Nam, Ed [nam.ed@epa.gov]; Furey, Eileen [furey.eileen@epa.gov]; Thiede, Kurt [thiede.kurt@epa.gov]; Stepp, Cathy [stepp.cathy@epa.gov]; Kelley, Jeff [kelley.jeff@epa.gov]; Deamer, Eileen [deamer.eileen@epa.gov]; Singer, Joshua [Singer.Joshua@epa.gov]; Arcaute, Francisco [Arcaute.Francisco@epa.gov]; Ballotti, Doug [ballotti.douglas@epa.gov]; Borries, Samuel [borries.samuel@epa.gov]; El-Zein, Jason [el-zein.jason@epa.gov]; Koerber, Mike [Koerber.Mike@epa.gov]; Davis, Alison [Davis.Alison@epa.gov]; Press [Press@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Re: Please review asap -

Has oaqps reviewer - bill was involved in this

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 22, 2019, at 3:41 PM, Rowan, Anne <[rowan.anne@epa.gov](mailto:rowan.anne@epa.gov)> wrote:

REVISED DRAFT RESPONSE (reflects comments from Ed, Eileen F and Eileen D and Tom Short:

Since May of last year, Watco has been taking active steps to reduce manganese emissions. In a call yesterday morning with Sen. Durbin's staff, EPA shared results from January's air monitoring at the Watco facility. We also discussed the issues raised by Sen. Durbin and Sen. Duckworth in their joint letter of January 20. December's average manganese concentration was 0.254 ug/m3. January's average manganese concentration was 0.218 ug/m3. EPA will post the January data to the agency's website on Monday.

In addition, EPA's Superfund program will conduct soil sampling at residential property near the facility. EPA will also coordinate with the City of Chicago on potential soil sampling at nearby municipal property.

U.S. EPA will continue to share information with the senators, the congresswoman and the public in a timely and transparent manner.

Anne Rowan, Chief  
News Media & Intergovernmental Relations Section  
Office of External Communications  
U.S. EPA Region 5, Chicago  
[rowan.anne@epa.gov](mailto:rowan.anne@epa.gov)  
312-353-9391

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**From:** Short, Thomas  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2019 2:30 PM  
**To:** Nam, Ed <[nam.ed@epa.gov](mailto:nam.ed@epa.gov)>; Furey, Eileen <[furey.eileen@epa.gov](mailto:furey.eileen@epa.gov)>; Thiede, Kurt <[thiede.kurt@epa.gov](mailto:thiede.kurt@epa.gov)>; Rowan, Anne <[rowan.anne@epa.gov](mailto:rowan.anne@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Stepp, Cathy <[stepp.cathy@epa.gov](mailto:stepp.cathy@epa.gov)>; Kelley, Jeff <[kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov)>; Grantham, Nancy

<Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Deamer, Eileen <deamer.eileen@epa.gov>; Singer, Joshua <Singer.Joshua@epa.gov>; Arcaute, Francisco <Arcaute.Francisco@epa.gov>; Ballotti, Doug <ballotti.douglas@epa.gov>; Borries, Samuel <borries.samuel@epa.gov>; El-Zein, Jason <el-zein.jason@epa.gov>

**Subject:** RE: WTTW Chicago Public TV (Alex Ruppenthal) [rec'd 2/22] -OPEN - Seeking comment on letter today's letter to RA from Duckworth, Durbin, Kelly urging EPA "take immediate action" on Watco DDL, 3PM TODAY

I don't know if we've already begun coordinating with the city but certainly will want to coordinate with the city when they sample. We obviously want to be sure they sample methods and approach are consistent with what we'll be doing.

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**From:** Nam, Ed

**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2019 2:12 PM

**To:** Furey, Eileen <furey.eileen@epa.gov>; Thiede, Kurt <thiede.kurt@epa.gov>; Rowan, Anne <rowan.anne@epa.gov>

**Cc:** Stepp, Cathy <stepp.cathy@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Deamer, Eileen <deamer.eileen@epa.gov>; Singer, Joshua <Singer.Joshua@epa.gov>; Arcaute, Francisco <Arcaute.Francisco@epa.gov>; Short, Thomas <short.thomas@epa.gov>

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Working on it. We were planning on posting the Jan data today, which shows decreasing ambient measurements, however we don't have the Met data ready yet. What we can do is publish the average Mn data for January today and publish the met data early next week. Kurt if you are ok with this, then we can tell WTTW that the average Jan measurement was 0.218 ug/m<sup>3</sup>. (We told Sen Duckworth's staff this yesterday).

I'm adding Tom: Are you comfortable with us saying that we are coordinating with the city of Chicago to conduct soil sampling in the Spring?

Thanks

-Ed

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**From:** Furey, Eileen

**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2019 1:54 PM

**To:** Thiede, Kurt <thiede.kurt@epa.gov>; Rowan, Anne <rowan.anne@epa.gov>

**Cc:** Stepp, Cathy <stepp.cathy@epa.gov>; Nam, Ed <nam.ed@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Deamer, Eileen <deamer.eileen@epa.gov>; Singer, Joshua <Singer.Joshua@epa.gov>; Arcaute, Francisco <Arcaute.Francisco@epa.gov>

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Yes, we have some encouraging numbers we can share. We will draft a concise update to the information below.

Eileen L. Furey  
Deputy Director

Air and Radiation Division  
U.S. EPA Region 5  
(312) 886-7950

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**From:** Thiede, Kurt

**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2019 1:50 PM

**To:** Rowan, Anne <[rowan.anne@epa.gov](mailto:rowan.anne@epa.gov)>

**Cc:** Stepp, Cathy <[stepp.cathy@epa.gov](mailto:stepp.cathy@epa.gov)>; Nam, Ed <[nam.ed@epa.gov](mailto:nam.ed@epa.gov)>; Furey, Eileen <[furey.eileen@epa.gov](mailto:furey.eileen@epa.gov)>; Kelley, Jeff <[kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov)>; Grantham, Nancy <[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov](mailto:Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov)>; Deamer, Eileen <[deamer.eileen@epa.gov](mailto:deamer.eileen@epa.gov)>; Singer, Joshua <[Singer.Joshua@epa.gov](mailto:Singer.Joshua@epa.gov)>; Arcaute, Francisco <[Arcaute.Francisco@epa.gov](mailto:Arcaute.Francisco@epa.gov)>

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Anything more recent we can add?

Kurt Thiede  
Chief of Staff  
EPA Region 5

Sent from my iPhone...please excuse my typos.

On Feb 22, 2019, at 1:46 PM, Rowan, Anne <[rowan.anne@epa.gov](mailto:rowan.anne@epa.gov)> wrote:

MOST RECENT WATCO STATEMENT (that I could find...)

Since 2014, EPA has been investigating fugitive dust and manganese air issues at several facilities on the Southeast side of Chicago, including S.H. Bell, Watco and NASCO. EPA staff will continue to inspect each of these Chicago facilities to confirm each company is complying with federal and state air requirements.

On May 15, 2018, EPA issued an information request to Watco requiring installation of air monitors measuring particulate matter less than 10 microns (PM10) and metals, including manganese.

On September 14, 2018, Watco installed and began operating one air monitor at its facility. Watco has now submitted six weeks of monitoring data to EPA. The six-week average manganese concentration measured by the monitor is 0.416 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. The minimal risk level (MRL) set by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) for manganese is 0.3 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. Exposure to a level above the MRL does not mean that adverse health effects will occur.

EPA has posted all of the monitoring data today on EPA's Southeast Chicago website associated with Watco (<https://www.epa.gov/il/watco-terminal-and-port-services>) with the latest background information and provide links to the filter-based monitoring data and meteorological data for download.

EPA is committed to investigating sources of fugitive dust and manganese in Southeast Chicago, including conducting inspections and issuing information requests for air monitoring under the Clean Air Act.

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312-353-9391

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**From:** Rowan, Anne

**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2019 1:41 PM

**To:** Stepp, Cathy <[stepp.cathy@epa.gov](mailto:stepp.cathy@epa.gov)>; Thiede, Kurt <[thiede.kurt@epa.gov](mailto:thiede.kurt@epa.gov)>; Nam, Ed <[nam.ed@epa.gov](mailto:nam.ed@epa.gov)>; Furey, Eileen <[furey.eileen@epa.gov](mailto:furey.eileen@epa.gov)>; Kelley, Jeff <[kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov)>; Grantham, Nancy <[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov](mailto:Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov)>

**Cc:** Deamer, Eileen <[deamer.eileen@epa.gov](mailto:deamer.eileen@epa.gov)>; Singer, Joshua <[Singer.Joshua@epa.gov](mailto:Singer.Joshua@epa.gov)>; Arcaute, Francisco <[Arcaute.Francisco@epa.gov](mailto:Arcaute.Francisco@epa.gov)>

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Ruppenthal asked EPA to comment on today's letter from three members of congress urging the agency to "take immediate action" to stop Watco from releasing unsafe levels of manganese into the environment on Chicago's SE Side.

<https://www.duckworth.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/19.02.22%20-%20Letter%20to%20EPA%20Watco%20CAA.pdf>

His deadline is at 3 PM today.

Alex Ruppenthal *Chicago Tonight*, [wttw](http://www.wttw.com)  
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